



Spotlight on CTE

Highlighting Student Leadership Activities and Achievements in Career and Technical Education

March-April 2006

In case you were wondering...Where did March go?
This issue covers both March and April, because there was not a March Informational Update from OCTP.

March was the month so many of our CTSO students marched off to Leadership Conferences all around the state! You could almost hear the thunder building, and feel the excitement in the air as one Chapter after another geared up for competition. **BPA** gathered in Grand Rapids, **FFA** at MSU, in East Lansing, and **DECA** met in Dearborn. Flowing right into **April**, **SkillsUSA** reigned in Lansing, **FCCLA** in Midland, and **HOSA** headed north to Traverse City (Acme).

All of this was possible only because of the hard work of our State CTSO Directors, the tireless efforts of student members and Leadership Councils, and other dedicated members of the CTE community who willingly served as judges for leadership contests and occupational skills contests. It's truly a team effort, which is the hallmark of CTE!

We look forward to hearing those conference highlights! Please email your tales of glory or any other story you would like to share, to beltzd@michigan.gov by **May 1, 2006**, for our June issue. Comments and questions are most welcome!

Don't forget the **OCTP SHORTCUT!** The OCTP homepage, for those who have gotten lost trying to find us on the web, is www.michigan.gov/octp. Click on Career and Technical Education, scroll down to the bottom of the page, and there is the newsletter! It bears repeating. Thank you for your perseverance. **HAPPY SPRING!**

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SECOND ANNUAL AUTOMOTIVE EDUCATION DAY

2006 North American International Auto Show is Huge Success!

More than 5,000 students from 115 schools descended upon Cobo Center in Detroit, on Wednesday, January 18, for the second annual **2006 NAIAS Automotive Education Day**. Of the schools participating, 98 were Michigan schools, two were from Ohio, one was from Indiana, and one even came all the way from North Carolina! Thirteen Canadian schools participated.



Bobby Martin, NHRA Alcohol Funny Car Drag Racer, delivered the opening remarks. Students in grades 8-12 had the opportunity to ask questions and learn about the exciting aspects of the automotive industry through informative presentations by industry's top specialists and executives.

Students could also visit the new Automotive Postsecondary Career Fair, visit cars on display at the Walter P. Chrysler Museum, tour the NAIAS show floor, have lunch in the Cobo Center Arena, and participate with a Post Automotive Education Day Challenge.

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“As always, we are excited to educate even more young people about the diverse career paths available in the automotive industry,” said Richard Genthe, NAIAS 2006, Senior Co-Chairman. “Automotive Education Day (gives) a clear depiction of the creative and technical skill levels needed for careers in automotive design, engineering, and alternative fuel/technology.”

Last year, more than 4,000 students from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Canada attended the first ever Automotive Education Day at Cobo Center. Students experienced presentations about safe driving, marketing, environmental impact, and graphic and automotive design from representatives with top automotive companies. The participating companies included Ford Motor Company, DaimlerChrysler, General Motors, BMW, Subaru, Toyota, and Michelin, to name a few.

This year’s Automotive Education Day, presented by State Farm Insurance, featured an Automotive Postsecondary Career Fair. The fair enabled students to talk one-on-one with postsecondary school representatives about their career interests and opportunities. In addition, a resource guide was provided to each instructor attending the event to encourage ongoing classroom instruction and discussion regarding the automotive industry.

The Automotive Education Day actually became more than a day this year. The newly established Team Challenge Contest, supported by the Ford Motor Co. Fund, was a post-show event for participants who attended the Automotive Education Day. The students were challenged to create a project back in their classrooms, using the knowledge they gained at NAIAS. This year’s event also included a drawing. State Farm Insurance provided iPods to lucky participants!



Out Of The Mouth of ...Students"

Uncommon Wisdom

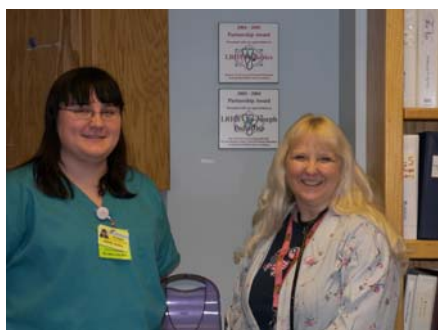
Carol Clark, OCTP Education Coordinator, relayed a remarkable conversation she had with a student during the latest TRAC visit to Calhoun Area Technology Center. She said, “A student in the 21st Century Health Careers program at Calhoun answered the question for me on what do you want to do when you graduate, this way: ‘I have been accepted at Central Michigan University in the Biomedical degree major. I will have a Chemistry minor. I want to be a physician and ***there is no such thing as a Pre-med major.*** That is only a focus. This degree will get me closer than any other toward my goal.’”

Carol continues, “Almost no adults realize that there is *no such thing as a Pre-med major.* This student already has a minor picked out and has her educational goals established. I thought that was a remarkably mature answer to a usually simple question. The students in the class have to apply to 3 different colleges/universities as a classroom assignment in the second year of the program. This shows the dedication our programs have toward moving students seamlessly into postsecondary education.”

2006 Calendar of Upcoming CTSO Events

BPA: May 10-14, 2006	www.michiganbpa.org National Leadership Conference Orlando, FL
DECA: April, 29 - May 3 June 22	www.mideca.org 60th International Career Development Conf., Dallas, TX Michigan DECA’s 9 th Annual Golf Outing, Eagle Crest Golf Club
FCCLA: July 9-13	www.mifccla.org National Leadership meeting, Nashville, Tennessee
HOSA: April 27-28	www.michiganhosa.org Michigan HOSA State Leadership Conference, Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, Michigan.
SkillsUSA May 7, 2006 June 18-24	www.miskillsusa.org National Conference Registration Due- State Office 42 nd Annual National Leadership & Skills Conf., Kansas City MO

Student Spotlight



(Sierra on left, with preceptor Marsha, in Pediatrics, at Lakeland Regional Health Center.)

Our Spotlight this month is on **Sierra Rodda**. Sierra is a senior at Coloma High School and a student in the award-winning Berrien County Professional Health Careers Academy (PHCA). She is on her way to one day becoming a

surgeon. Through PHCA, she has successfully completed internships in Pediatrics, Cardiac Telemetry, Surgery, and Obstetrics at Lakeland Regional Medical Center. She says she loves being a member of the Academy. “It has offered me tremendous experiences in healthcare, and I have met so many new people!”

Sierra is modest about her achievements and leadership abilities. While at Coloma, she has been a member of the National Honor Society for three years, a band member for four years, and is currently a member of SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving). Despite her busy schedule, Sierra still manages to maintain a 3.7 GPA, be actively involved in her church youth group, and hold down an after-school job!

Proving she’s on the right path, her favorite classes include Anatomy and College Composition. She especially enjoys learning about the human body and how it functions and looks forward to applying what she’s learned to her future profession as a surgeon. Sierra has been interested in a career in healthcare since she was in middle school. At the time, she wanted to become a veterinarian, but her interests evolved to patients of the human kind. Her plans are to attend Hope College in the fall and transfer to the Human Medicine program at Michigan State University, in pursuit of her specialty.

Sierra encourages students interested in medicine to not approach it lightly. “Get some experience and make sure it is a career that you really want to pursue. It is a huge commitment.” Sierra attributes her success in life to her grandparents, Ed and Joanne Johnson, with whom she lives. She says her grandparents have always encouraged her to pursue her dreams, and to always believe that anything is possible. To the delight of her grandparents and mentors, she hopes to return to the Berrien County area one day to begin her surgical practice. Her likely future employer, Lakeland Regional Health Center, has a stated mission to “grow their own”. It is evident loving hands planted the seeds, nurtured the tree, and it has now born fruit. Congratulations, Sierra!

Allegan County Tech Center Awarded \$45,000 Grant

PROJECT X WHY Z Gets Students Excited About Math and Science!

Allegan County’s Technical and Education Center (ACATEC) received great news on January 11, from the Convergence Education Foundation, that they had been awarded a grant to fund *Project X Why Z* for \$45,000 over a period of three years.

Project X Why Z is a collaborative effort between ACATEC’s **Electromechanical Technology Program** and the **Allegan County Math and Science Center** to pique student interest in the career areas of engineering and science. It is a technology-centered educational project in the areas of electricity, electronics, physics, and the science of sound and acoustics.

The project fully engages each student’s primary senses as a bridge to knowledge and understanding of changing electrical energy (music) into mechanical energy using loudspeakers. The funds will be used to purchase a myriad of equipment and resources such as software, computers, wave demonstration apparatus, audio equipment, and measurement and analysis equipment.

The project concept inventor, Robert Karns (Electromechanical Instructor and SkillsUSA advisor), has blended his years of experience in loudspeaker design with his teaching background to provide a unique opportunity for Allegan County’s young adults who may be planning for a career in technical education.

Project X Why Z demonstrates a new and unique teaching methodology that delivers important electrical concepts through the exploration and experience of sound and acoustics in the classroom, laboratory, and in real-world contexts such as an auditorium.

In the coming three years *Project X Why Z* will be in full swing with student ambassadors bringing the project to the educational community in Allegan County through the direction of Amy Oliver, the Math and Science Center Director. *Project X Why Z* “ambassadors” will be visiting schools in the region to get students excited about science and learning, through a technology-rich education.

For more information, contact Midge Stamas, Amy Oliver (Math & Science Center Supervisor), or Bob Karns.

TRAC Treasures

Health Summit held in Branch County . . .

A “gem” was discovered during the recent OCTP TRAC visit to Branch ISD! We are always delighted to tell you of best practices when we discover them. The Health Science program at **Branch Area Careers Center** is one such program. Under the direction of instructor Helyn Castle, students and the whole community revved up for their recent **Health Summit, on April 21, 2006.**

Hundreds of students were invited from all over Branch County to participate in real-world hands-on activities at the Summit. Targeting primarily science students and 10th through 12th graders, **50 different presenters** from all aspects of health care, from technicians to surgeons, demonstrated their respective health career professions, in 10-minute rotating segments, to interested students.

An emergency evacuation helicopter loomed in an adjacent parking lot as one of the demonstration sites! A large exhibitor space also overflowed with college representatives and employers, especially health-industry-related employers.

All of this was possible because of a terrific collaboration between the **Community Health Center of Branch County** and other employer partners of Branch Area Careers Center, whose in-kind contributions ranged from the use of a vacant former K-Mart Building next to the hospital for Summit space, to water “bubblers” and cups from the Culligan Corporation for participant lunches.

Local law enforcement even offered the services of jail inmates to buff the floors and clean and prepare the vacant building for its new use, so when they say the community is involved, they mean everyone! The Careers Center Hospitality program students prepared healthy lunches for everybody, reported to be delicious.

Michigan Representative Bruce Caswell, and Michigan Senator Cameron Brown, both of whom represent the district, were invited to attend, and planned to be there. We hope they took note of some of their brightest young constituents, as well as dedicated educators, employers and community members.

For more information on the Health Summit, contact Helyn Castle at castleh@branch-isd.org.

Related “Treasures”

“Practice What You Preach”

The same **Branch Area Careers Center Health Occupations students** mentioned above are completing a year-long health project that requires them to “practice what they preach”, in the area of their **own** personal health.

All program students have taken an extensive pre-assessment of the state of their health (weight, blood pressure, cholesterol, eating and exercise habits, etc.) and are tracking their own progress of the course of the year. They will take a post-assessment, and results will be put into a database. Plans are to repeat the project with next year’s class.

Students have reported good results, so much so that other family members have noticed and some have started getting in on the act. One student said her parent has started using the treadmill. Keep up the good work, students! How many of us can say we “practice what we preach?”

State CTSO Director Corner

Newsletter Publishing Schedule:

Articles Due:

August 1
November 1
February 1
May 1

Publish Date:

September
December
March
June

Student organization directors **only**, please submit articles using the Newsletter Response Form. E-mail articles to Donna Beltz, Editor, at beltzd@michigan.gov.

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